

# National Gallery of Art

## NEWS RELEASE

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### MASTERPIECES FROM THE PALAZZO DORIA PAMPHILJ

### TO COME TO NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART, SOLE AMERICAN VENUE

JUNE 16 - SEPTEMBER 2, 1996

Washington, D.C. -- Twelve works by the celebrated virtuosos of Renaissance and baroque art -- Alessandro Algardi, Bernini, Caravaggio, Annibale Carracci, Guercino, Claude Lorrain, Lorenzo Lotto, Raphael, Carlo Saraceni, Titian, and Velázquez -- will be on view in Masterpieces from the Palazzo Doria Pamphilj, Rome at the National Gallery of Art's West Building from June 16 through September 2, 1996. The ten paintings and two sculptures are from the Doria Pamphilj Gallery in Rome, one of the most illustrious private collections in the world.

"The National Gallery is extremely fortunate to be able to exhibit these masterpieces while the Palazzo Doria Pamphilj is undergoing renovation. We are most grateful for this generous loan from the Doria Pamphilj family," said Earl A. Powell III, director, National Gallery of Art.

Before coming to Washington, the exhibition's only U.S. venue, it was seen at the National Gallery, London (February 22 - May 19, 1996). Prior to this exhibition, very few of these works had ever been seen outside Italy. The state rooms of the Palazzo

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will be open to the public during the summer, and the gallery will open completely in mid-September.

The collection was founded in 1651 by Pope Innocent X Pamphilj (reigned 1644 - 1655), whose masterly portrait by Diego Velázquez is the centerpiece of this exhibition. Two other images of the Pope are included, a marble bust by Gian Lorenzo Bernini and a portrait in bronze and porphyry by Alessandro Algardi.

Nine other remarkable paintings make up the exhibition: Titian's Salome with the Head of John the Baptist (c.1515), Raphael's Double Portrait of Andrea Navagero and Agostino Beazzano (c.1516), Annibale Carracci's Landscape with the Flight into Egypt (c. 1603-1604), Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio's Rest on the Flight into Egypt (c.1595-1597), and works by Lorenzo Lotto, Guercino (Giovanni Francesco Barbieri), Carlo Saraceni, and Claude Lorrain.

When the Pope's nephew Camillo Pamphilj married Olimpia Aldobrandini in 1647, the works commissioned by Innocent X were enriched by paintings belonging to the Aldobrandini, another great papal family, including the pictures by Raphael and Titian. The family name Doria Pamphilj derives from the 1671 marriage between Prince Andrea Doria III, of the venerable Genoese Doria family, and Anna Pamphilj, the great-niece of Pope Innocent, which brought additional great Renaissance and baroque paintings into the collection. With hundreds of works by the greatest

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Italian and northern European painters of the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries, the collection remains intact and in the possession of the family, and it is protected by the Italian state.

Velázquez's Portrait of Pope Innocent X (c. 1650) is the single most celebrated work of art in the Doria Pamphilj collection, and is probably the artist's supreme masterpiece of portraiture. He records the pope's unappealing appearance with unflinching realism, but the brilliant brushwork and use of color and light make this portrait one of the most compelling ever painted.

Caravaggio, the most influential and original Italian painter of the seventeenth century, painted a highly imaginative interpretation of a Biblical theme in Rest on the Flight into Egypt. The angel, seen from behind, separates the painting into sections, with Joseph on the left and the Virgin and Child, shown asleep, on the right.

Salome with the Head of Saint John the Baptist offered Titian the opportunity to express his ideal of feminine beauty. It is one of the Venetian Renaissance painter's most poetical creations. If the pensive young woman represented is not Salome, the painting may portray the Old Testament heroine Judith.

Carracci's Landscape with the Flight into Egypt, widely considered one of the greatest landscape paintings ever made, contains natural scenic elements composed into a grand,

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formalized setting. This idealized scene, hung in the private chapel of the palace that later became Palazzo Doria Pamphilj, greatly influenced seventeenth-century landscape painters.

Erminia Finding the Wounded Tancred (c.1618-1619) by Carracci's Bolognese contemporary Guercino is a masterwork of the baroque style of painting that found a ready audience in seventeenth-century Rome, with its dramatic and bold lighting, strong colors, expressive gestures, and vigorous brushwork. Its subject is from Tasso's epic poem describing the capture of Jerusalem in the First Crusade.

The exhibition was organized by the National Gallery, London, its only other venue. Coordinating curator at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, is David Alan Brown, curator of Italian Renaissance painting. A booklet on the collection and many of its finest paintings, Galleria Doria Pamphilj Masterpieces: Paintings by Eduard A. Safarik (translated by Christopher Evans), published in 1993 by Scala, will be available for \$20.00 from the National Gallery shops.

The National Gallery of Art, located on Constitution Avenue between Third and Seventh Streets, NW, is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free. For general information call (202) 737-4215, or the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at (202) 842-6176.

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